

CLAIMS

1. A peptide encoded by an operon including any of the genes identified herein as pho1-13, pho3-21, pho2-15, pho3-18, pho3-22, pho3-3, pho3-17, pho2-2, pho1-5, pho3-1, pho3-23, pho3-50, pho1-14, pho2-10, pho3-14, pho3-24 and pho3-29, obtainable from Group B *Streptococcus*, or a homologue thereof or a functional fragment thereof, for therapeutic use.
2. A peptide according to claim 1, comprising any of the amino acid sequences identified herein as SEQ ID NOS. 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27, 29, 31, 33 and 35.
3. A polynucleotide encoding a peptide according to claim 1 or claim 2, for therapeutic use.
4. A host transformed to express a peptide according to claim 1 or claim 2.
5. A vaccine comprising a peptide according to claim 1 or claim 2, or the means for its expression.
6. Use of a product according to any of claims 1 to 4, for screening potential drugs or for the detection of virulence.
7. Use of a product according to any of claims 1 to 4, for the manufacture of a medicament for use in the treatment or prevention of a condition associated with bacterial infection.
8. Use according to claim 7, wherein the infection is a Group B streptococcal infection.
9. Use according to claim 7 or claim 8, wherein the infection is a focal infection.
10. Use according to claim 7 or claim 8, wherein the infection is a urinary tract infection.
11. An antibody raised against a peptide according to claim 1 or claim 2.

Claims

12. A peptide encoded by a polynucleotide sequence wherein said polynucleotide sequence comprises a gene, obtainable from a Group B *Streptococcus*, selected from the group consisting of pho1-13, pho3-21, pho2-15, pho3-18, pho3-22, pho3-3, pho3-17, pho2-2, pho1-5, pho3-1, pho3-23, pho3-50, pho1-14, pho2-10, pho3-14, pho3-24 and pho3-29; or said polynucleotide sequence comprises a homologue or a functional fragment of one of said Group B *Streptococcus* genes.

13. The peptide, according to claim 12, comprising an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOS. 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27, 29, 31, 33 and 35.

14. A polynucleotide wherein said polynucleotide sequence comprises a gene, obtainable from a Group B *Streptococcus*, selected from the group consisting of pho1-13, pho3-21, pho2-15, pho3-18, pho3-22, pho3-3, pho3-17, pho2-2, pho1-5, pho3-1, pho3-23, pho3-50, pho1-14, pho2-10, pho3-14, pho3-24 and pho3-29, obtainable from Group B *Streptococcus*; or said polynucleotide sequence comprises a homologue or a functional fragment of one said Group B *Streptococcus* genes.

15. A polynucleotide which encodes a peptide selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOS. 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27, 29, 31, 33 and 35.

16. A host transformed to express a peptide encoded by a polynucleotide sequence wherein said polynucleotide sequence comprises a gene, obtainable from a Group B *Streptococcus*, selected from the group consisting of pho1-13, pho3-21, pho2-15, pho3-18, pho3-22, pho3-3, pho3-17, pho2-2, pho1-5, pho3-1, pho3-23, pho3-50, pho1-14, pho2-10, pho3-14, pho3-24 and pho3-29; or said polynucleotide sequence comprises a homologue or a functional fragment of one of said Group B *Streptococcus* genes.

17. The host, according to claim 16, wherein said peptide comprises an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOS. 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27, 29, 31, 33 and 35.

18. A vaccine comprising either 1) a peptide encoded by a polynucleotide sequence wherein said polynucleotide sequence comprises a gene, obtainable from a Group B *Streptococcus*, selected from the group consisting of pho1-13, pho3-21, pho2-15, pho3-18, pho3-22, pho3-3, pho3-17, pho2-2, pho1-5, pho3-1, pho3-23, pho3-50, pho1-14, pho2-10, pho3-14, pho3-24 and pho3-29; or said polynucleotide sequence comprises a homologue or a functional fragment of one of said Group B *Streptococcus* genes; or 2) a means for expressing said peptide.

19. The method, according to claim 18, wherein said peptide comprises an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOS. 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27, 29, 31, 33 and 35.

20. A method for screening for potential drugs, wherein said method comprises the use of a peptide encoded by a polynucleotide sequence wherein said polynucleotide sequence comprises a gene, obtainable from a Group B *Streptococcus*, selected from the group consisting of pho1-13, pho3-21, pho2-15, pho3-18, pho3-22, pho3-3, pho3-17, pho2-2, pho1-5, pho3-1, pho3-23, pho3-50, pho1-14, pho2-10, pho3-14, pho3-24 and pho3-29; or said polynucleotide sequence comprises a homologue or a functional fragment of one of said Group B *Streptococcus* genes.

21. The method, according to claim 20, wherein said peptide comprises an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOS. 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27, 29, 31, 33 and 35.

23. The method, according to claim 22, wherein said peptide comprises an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOS. 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, ~~23, 25,~~ 27, 29, 31, 33 and 35.

25. The method, according to claim 24, wherein said peptide comprises an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOS. 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27, 29, 31, 33 and 35.

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27. The method, according to claim 24, wherein the infection is a local infection.

28. The method, according to claim 24, wherein the infection is a urinary tract infection.

29. An antibody raised against a peptide encoded by a polynucleotide sequence wherein said polynucleotide sequence comprises a gene, obtainable from a Group B *Streptococcus*, selected from the group consisting of pho1-13, pho3-21, pho2-15, pho3-18, pho3-22, pho3-3, pho3-17, pho2-2, pho1-5, pho3-1, pho3-23, pho3-50, pho1-14, pho2-10, pho3-14, pho3-24 and pho3-29; or said polynucleotide sequence comprises a homologue or a functional fragment of one of said Group B *Streptococcus* genes.

30. The antibody, according to claim 29, wherein said peptide comprises an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOS. 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27, 29, 31, 33 and 35.